REMARKS

By the above amendment, claims 3, 6, 8, 11, and 13 have been amended to delete multiple claim dependency, and no estoppel should be deemed to be associated with this amendment.

If there should be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted, Mitsuru CHIBA

Bruce H. Bernstein

Reg. No. 29,027

Leslie J. Paperner

Reg. No. 33,329

January 18, 2005 GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 Roland Clarke Place Reston, VA 20191 (703) 716-1191